

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9 and 18 have been amended. Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Of those, claims 3, 5 and 14-17 have been indicated as allowable.

Regarding claim 3, Applicants have amended this claim to note that the second and fourth communication control units refers to the control units of the respective map information update apparatus operator and the map display control apparatus user. Applicants therefore submit claim 3 along with its dependent claims is therefore in condition for allowance, together with allowed claim 5.

In the Office Action, several claims were rejected as being indefinite and as being anticipated by SMITH (US 2002/0067289) or NINAGAWA (US 6,075,467). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants' counsel wish to thank Examiner Broadhead for the courtesies extended during the personal interview on October 6, 2004. The following records the substance of the interview.

In the Office Action, claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by SMITH. However, as discussed during the interview, Applicants have clarified claim 1 to specify that the information related to the map currently displayed on the display device and transmitted to the second control apparatus is "sufficient information" to allow the second control apparatus to reproduce the map.

By contrast, SMITH merely discloses vehicles that transmit their location information to a weather center such that the weather center can then issue warning information if inclement weather may be encountered. Paragraph 30 in

SMITH notes that GPS information, as well as vehicle sensor information, such as temperature, speed, etc., can be transmitted to the weather center. However, this information merely identifies the location of the vehicle to the weather center. It does not provide sufficient information to allow the weather center to reproduce a map currently being displayed by the map display control unit.

While Applicants' original claim language, taken in light of the specification, is submitted to already require information sufficient to allow the control apparatus to reproduce the map currently displayed by the map display control unit, Applicants nonetheless propose clarifying claim 1 to make the language more explicit. Hence, in claim 1, the map information transmission unit transmits information related to the map currently displayed in the map display control unit to the second control apparatus. The "information" related to the map being sufficient information to allow the second control apparatus to reproduce the map currently displayed on the display device (see page 19, lines 5-9, for an example).

Accordingly, as discussed during the interview, Applicants submit claim 1 is patentable over SMITH.

Applicants have similarly amended independent claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Accordingly, Applicants submit these claims are also patentable over both SMITH and NINAGAWA.

Regarding NINAGAWA, hereto NINAGAWA does not disclose that a map, which corresponds to a map currently displayed by a map display control apparatus, is displayed at an information center 20. Hence, Applicants submit NINAGAWA suffers from the same deficiencies as SMITH.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit claims 1-19 are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #1420/50851).

Respectfully submitted,

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